

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Three community health organizations on the Central Coast have been awarded grants totaling more than \$2.2 million. The funds were included in the Recovery Act, which was signed into law in February.

"The Recovery Act was written with an eye toward stimulating our economy, but it's also meant to help millions of families who have been hurt by job loss, foreclosure and state fiscal struggles," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "Making sure that our health safety net is solid will help many families in our communities, and I look forward to working with these clinics to make sure they remain strong."

Local clinics receiving grants:

- Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas, \$1,244,315
- San Benito Health Foundation, \$554,150
- Santa Cruz County, \$460,035

"In an era where everyone in the health care industry is striving to improve access to quality health care services, funding community health centers to implement electronic health records is a bold step by the president and Congress to strengthen the effort of our nation's health care safety net to continue serving the health care needs of all families," said Dr. Maximiliano Cuevas, chief executive officer of Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas. "Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas is honored to have received this great opportunity."

The grants are coming from the Recovery Act Capital Improvement Program and are intended to support construction, repair and renovation of more than 1,500 health center sites around the country. This is the second group of grants to local health centers. Another Recovery Act distribution in the spring sent \$1.2 million to four local clinics.

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